Statement

Six Topics discussed in the Seminar

1. Drug abuse : Crime or a social evil : Respective roles of governmental and non-governmental (voluntary) organisations.
2. The Police role towards Women and Children : Delinquency, Crime against women, domestic violence and child abuse.
3. The Criminal Justice System : Public perception-expectations from its different sub-systems.
4. Police and the Media : Respective role perceptions : Is there a need for change?
5. Changing expectations of society and Police : Agency of law or instrument of social change
6. To whom the police should be accountable?

The points that emerged during the Discussion

1. It is essential to curb the drug menace even for small quantities because usually drug pedlars give small quantities and do not keep large quantities with them. Also in a democracy, remedy has to be applied where it affects the largest numbers of people.
2. Education is of prime importance for fighting the drug menace. Efforts should be concentrated on harder drugs.
3. There should be extra alert on Burma border in view of high degree of purity of the heroin smuggled from North-East side.
4. The police working which is shrouded in secrecy should be made more open.
5. There should be some institutional arrangements to ensure effective enforcement and encourage attitudinal change in policemen.
6. Women social workers should be involved at the police station level for better appreciation and understanding of complaints of women.
7. Laws should be reviewed in view of the changing aspirations of the society in the post independence era.
8. The various suggestions made in the three major Commissions' reports since 1980 namely, Law Commission, National Police Commission and Jail Reforms Commission, should be studied and implemented.
9. The police should have an effective public relationship unit manned by professionals to project police image and keep contact with press on a continuous basis.
10. In order to make police responsive to the needs of under previleged sections of the society, they should be recruited into the police force in large numbers.

News item captioned illegal quarrying in forest land

175. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister for ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item in the 'Times of India' New Delhi, dated October, 5, 1988 captioned "Illegal Quarrying in forest land";

(b) if so, what is the extent of damage caused to fertile land and forests as a result of indiscriminate mining and quarrying in Haryana; and

(c) what remedial measures have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A report from the State Government has been called for.